

Fact Sheet



Economy Products Site Shenandoah, Iowa

June 2001

INTRODUCTION

A treatment unit, designed to clean up pesticide-contaminated soil, will arrive at the former Economy Products site the first week of June 2001. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and its contractors, will operate the unit and perform cleanup activities throughout the summer.

The site, located at 8th Avenue and Southwest Road in Shenandoah, was most recently used for storage of nursery stock by the Earl May Seed and Nursery Company.

HOW THE UNIT WORKS

Thermal desorption has been used to treat contaminated soil at numerous Superfund sites across the country. Soil is excavated and fed into the unit where it moves through a rotating cylinder. As the soil moves through the cylinder, it is heated to temperatures up to 850° F. The heat causes the contaminants to separate from the soil and vaporize (turn into gas). After the soil is treated, it is stockpiled and sampled to verify that the cleanup goals have been met. When the analytical data confirms that a particular stockpile of treated soil meets the cleanup goals, the treated soil is used to backfill excavated areas.

The gas that separates from the soil as it is heated will be treated to meet required air emission standards. The gas first passes through a filter, or baghouse, to remove particles. Then, the filtered gas is routed through the air pollution control system. Water is used to cool the gas before it passes through a scrubber that removes acid from the gas. A cloud of steam coming out of the unit's stack will be visible. Air from the stack is monitored to ensure the thermal treatment is complete.

Site Open House

You are invited to visit the site and see the thermal desorption unit before it begins operating. EPA staff will be available to provide information and answer questions about the unit and the site cleanup. The site open house will be:

**Monday, June 11, 2001
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Economy Products Site
8th Avenue and Southwest Road
Shenandoah, Iowa**

You may visit the site at your convenience between 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR CLEANUP ACTIVITIES?

Before the unit is installed, the remaining building and loading dock at the site will be demolished. The unit is scheduled for set-up the week of June 4, and testing will begin the following week. Routine performance tests will be conducted on the unit to ensure proper operation. Testing will occur for about a month.

The unit will operate Monday through Saturday, from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., for three to four weeks this summer. During this time, there will be noise from the unit and increased truck traffic around the site. EPA estimates 10,000 tons of contaminated soil will be treated in the unit.

When the soil treatment is complete, the unit will be dismantled and moved off the site. The site will be graded and vegetated. EPA expects the project to be completed by the end of September 2001.

Several weeks ago, EPA removed contaminated soil from residential yards next to the site and from the railroad right-of-way across Southwest Boulevard. The cleanup of those areas is complete.

BACKGROUND

Agricultural pesticides were formulated and packaged at the Economy Products facility from 1961 to 1973. In 1973, a fire destroyed Economy Products' main packaging area, a warehouse where chemicals were stored, and another building next to the warehouse. As a result, pesticides were deposited on the facility property, on several residential properties next to the facility, and on the railroad right-of-way across the street.

The Earl May Seed and Nursery Company purchased the Economy Products property in 1976 and used it for storage of nursery stock until about September 1999, when the storage operation was moved to a larger facility outside Shenandoah. The facility was deeded to Factory Place, L.C., in 1999.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Site-related documents, including information on the thermal desorption unit, are available for public review at the Shenandoah Public Library, 201 S. Elm, Shenandoah, Iowa. If you have questions or need more information on the site, please contact:

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